

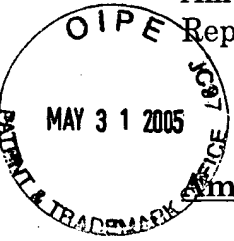
Appl. No. 10/026,208

Attorney Docket No. 81846.0031

Amdt. Dated May 27, 2005

Customer No.: 26021

Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2005



Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 30. Support for these changes can be found in the specification on page 66, line 27 to page 67, line 12 and FIG. 31B.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

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REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 3, 2005. Claims 3-16 remain in this application. Claims 3, 5, and 9 are the independent Claims. Claims 6 and 11 have been amended to comply with 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-2 are cancelled without prejudice. It is believed that no new matter is involved in the amendments or arguments presented herein. Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the application are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, Claims 3-5, 7-10, and 12-16 were allowed. In addition, Claims 6 and 11 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner and formally recognizes the allowable subject matter of Claims 3-16.

Non-Art Based Rejections

Claims 2, 6, and 11 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 2 is moot in view of the cancellation of this claim. Moreover, Applicant has amended Claims 6 and 11 to comply with 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above §112 rejections are respectfully requested.

According to amended Claims 6 and 11, the range in which suction holes are formed on the wall of the transfer head is substantially the same as the size of a sealing sheet which has been cut. As disclosed in the specification on page 18, lines 21-24 and page 23, lines 5-9, the first and third sealing sheets, for example, of EVA,

are relatively thick and flexible. With regard to this type of sealing sheet, if the entire sealing sheet is not drawn to the transfer head, the sheet may sag while it is being transferred to the sheet covering position by the transfer head. Claims 6 and 11 define a structure which can prevent the sealing sheet from sagging.

For example, with reference to Claim 11, the first transfer head 71 that transfers the first sealing sheet 21 is described on page 26, line 17 to page 27, line 3 of the specification. The third transfer head 261 that transfers the third sealing sheet 23 is described on page 56, lines 4-14 of the specification. The phrase “the second sealing sheet 22” in this portion is a mistake which should be corrected to “the third sealing sheet 23”. The basis for this correction may be found in the specification of the parent application, (e.g., on page 57, lines 11-24). This correction does not introduce any new subject matter. Moreover, the fourth transfer head 311 that transfers the fourth sealing sheet 24 is described on page 66, line 27 to page 67, line 12 of the specification.

Art-Based Rejections

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) over USPN 5,804,023 (Carpenter). In response, the rejection of Claims 1-2 is moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6809 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: May 27, 2005

By: 

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FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of a disk manufacturing apparatus. The apparatus includes a disk 295 being processed by a head 298. A head moving device 312 and a head elevating device 313 are shown. A die elevating device 303 is also present. A cutter moving device 302c is shown. The apparatus is labeled 37.